

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Transportation Committee

BILL: SB 1762

SPONSOR: Senator Geller

SUBJECT: Drawbridges

DATE: March 31, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Evans	Meyer	TR	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	TA	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires drawbridges to be equipped with video cameras and monitors so the bridge operators can view any pedestrian traffic to ensure no pedestrians are on the bridge before raising it.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

A bridge is defined in s. 334.03(2), F.S., to mean a structure, including supports, erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water or a highway or railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic.

The Department of Transportation maintains 6,200 of the 11,000 bridges statewide and inspects these bridges every two years to identify which bridges need preventative maintenance, minor or major repair work, or replacement.¹

There are 152 drawbridges in Florida. Ninety-eight of the 152 drawbridges in Florida are on the State Highway System which are located in 76 separate locations.² The remaining 54 drawbridges are located on county, municipal or other privately owned systems.³

¹ <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/statistics/assetmgt/default.htm>

² Department of Transportation

³ Department of Transportation

Within some areas of Florida, cameras are already being used to monitor the pedestrian flow on drawbridges. On January 29, 2005, the drawbridge which carries Hallandale Beach Boulevard over the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida A1A/Ocean Boulevard in Broward County made the news when cameras captured the image of an elderly woman, Helen Koton, hanging onto the bridge while it raised to its vertical position. She was able to survive with a few bumps and bruises. These cameras were installed on this bridge due to the presence of two "blind spots" which cannot be seen from the bridge tender's control tower. Cameras are also being considered for some of the other 13 drawbridges in Broward County.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1: Requires each drawbridge to be equipped with video cameras located so the bridge operator can view any pedestrian traffic to ensure no pedestrians are on the bridge before it is raised.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Fifty-two drawbridges are located on either a county or municipal road system. The Department of Transportation estimates the cost of installing a camera system is \$50,000 per bridge assuming four cameras are installed per bridge for a total cost of \$2.5 million and maintenance of the systems is estimated at \$333,000 annually (this includes replacement of the systems every six years).

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

⁴ http://www.southeastroads.com/i-095b_fl.html

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Transportation estimates the cost of installing a camera system is \$50,000 per bridge assuming four cameras are installed per bridge for a total cost of \$3.75 million and maintenance of the systems is estimated at \$575,000 annually (this includes replacement of the systems every six years).

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

On March 16, 2005, the City of Hollywood, Florida passed a resolution urging the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Florida install cameras on drawbridges to assist in the monitoring of pedestrian traffic upon raising drawbridges.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
